IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended)   A system for providing software, comprising:

a server operable to provide software via a network to a plurality of electronic devices;

at least two electronic devices, each of the at least two electronic devices being identified by device identification information registered in association with user identification information identifying a single user ~~of~~ such that each of the at least two electronic devices have the same user associated therewith;

each of the at least two electronic devices including:

first requesting means for sending the user identification information and the device identification information for the respective electronic device, and software identification information for selected software, to the server to request that the selected software be provided;

installing means for installing the selected software provided from the server;

second requesting means for sending the software identification information for the selected software, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device to the server to request that a license required to run the selected software be generated based on predetermined license generating information and be provided to the electronic device;

running means for running the selected software using the license; and

third requesting means for requesting that the server transfer the selected software from the respective electronic device to another of the at least two electronic devices which has the same user associated therewith as that of the respective electronic device; and

the server including:

registering means for registering the software identification information for the selected software in

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association with the user identification information and the device identification information for the <u>respective</u> electronic device on condition that the user identification information and the device identification information for the <u>respective</u> electronic device have been registered in association with each other;

providing means for providing the selected software to the <u>respective</u> electronic device;

generating means for generating the license when the software identification information for the selected software, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the <u>respective</u> electronic device have been registered in association with each other; and

transferring means for, upon a request by the third requesting means of the <u>respective</u> electronic device to transfer the selected software to the another electronic device, deleting the software identification information for the selected software and the user identification information and the device identification information registered in association with the software identification information, and registering the software identification information for the selected software in association with the device identification information for the another electronic device and the user identification information.

2. (currently amended) An apparatus for providing software via a network to electronic devices, each of the electronic devices being identified by device identification information, the apparatus comprising:

registering means for registering software identification information for selected software sent from an electronic device in association with user identification information identifying a user of the electronic device and device identification information for the electronic device on condition that the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device have been registered in association with each other;

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providing means for providing the selected software to the electronic device;

generating means for generating license generating information for generating a license required to run the selected software when the software identification information for the selected software, the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device have been registered in association with each other; and

transferring means for, upon a request to transfer the selected software to another electronic device, deleting the software identification information for the selected software and the user identification information and the device identification information registered in association with the software identification information, and registering the software identification information for the selected software in association with device identification information for the another electronic device and the user identification information,

in which the user associated with the electronic device is the same as that of the another electronic device.

3.   (currently amended)   A method for providing software via a network to electronic devices, each of the electronic devices being identified by device identification information, the method comprising:

registering software identification information for selected software sent from an electronic device in association with user identification information identifying a user of the electronic device and device identification information for the electronic device on condition that the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device have been registered in association with each other;

providing the selected software to the electronic device;

generating license generating information for generating a license required to run the selected software when

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the software identification information for the selected software, the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device have been registered in association with each other; and

upon a request to transfer the selected software to another electronic device, deleting the software identification information for the selected software and the user identification information and the device identification information registered in association with the software identification information, and registering the software identification information for the selected software in association with device identification information for the another electronic device and the user identification information, in which the user associated with the electronic device is the same as that of the another electronic device.

4.   (currently amended)   A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer readable program for providing software via a network to electronic devices, each of the electronic devices being identified by device identification information, the program comprising:

controlling registration of software identification information for selected software sent from an electronic device in association with user identification information identifying a user of the electronic device and device identification information for the electronic device, the software identification information for the selected software being registered when the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device have been registered in association with each other;

controlling provision of the selected software to the electronic device;

controlling generation of license generating information for generating a license required to run the selected software, the license generating information being generated when the software identification information for the

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selected software, the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device have been registered in association with each other; and

controlling deletion of the software identification information for the selected software and the user identification information and the device identification information registered in association with the software identification information, and registration of the software identification information for the selected software in association with device identification information for another electronic device and the user identification information, the deletion and the registration being executed upon a request to transfer the selected software to the another electronic device, in which the user associated with the electronic device is the same as that of the another electronic device.

5.   (currently amended) A system for providing software via a network to electronic devices, each of the electronic devices being identified by device identification information, the system comprising:

a processor operable to execute instructions; and

instructions, the instructions including:

registering software identification information for selected software sent from an electronic device in association with user identification information identifying a user of the electronic device and device identification information for the electronic device on condition that the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device have been registered in association with each other;

providing the selected software to the electronic device;

generating license generating information for generating a license required to run the selected software when the software identification information for the selected software, the user identification information and the device

identification information for the electronic device have been registered in association with each other; and

upon a request to transfer the selected software to another electronic device, deleting the software identification information for the selected software and the user identification information and the device identification information registered in association with the software identification information, and registering the software identification information for the selected software in association with device identification information for the another electronic device and the user identification information,

in which the user associated with the electronic device is the same as that of the another electronic device.

6.   (currently amended)   A system for providing software, comprising:

a server operable to provide software via a network to electronic devices; and

electronic devices, each of the electronic devices being identified by device identification information registered in association with user identification information identifying a user of the electronic device in which each of the electronic devices has the same user associated therewith;

each of the electronic devices including:

software requesting means for requesting selected software by sending software identification information for the selected software to the server;

receiving means for receiving the selected software from the server;

license requesting means for requesting a license for running the selected software; and

change-requesting means for issuing an electronic-device changing request so that another electronic device different from the electronic device will be allowed to run the selected software; and

the server including:

sending means for sending the selected software to the electronic device;

issuing means for issuing the license for running the selected software; and

changing means for executing an electronic-device changing operation so that the another electronic device will be allowed to run the selected software.

7.   (currently amended)   An apparatus for providing software via a network to electronic devices, each of the electronic devices being identified by device identification information, the apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing device identification information for an electronic device and user identification information identifying a user of the electronic device in association with each other;

receiving means for receiving software identification information for selected software from the electronic device;

software sending means for sending the selected software identified by the software identification information to the electronic device;

issuing means for issuing a license that allows the electronic device to run the selected software; and

changing means for receiving a changing request and for executing a changing operation so that another electronic device will be allowed to run the selected software using the license‚

in which the user associated with the electronic device is the same as that of the another electronic device.

8.   (original)   The software providing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein when the receiving means has received the software identification information for the selected software, the storage means stores the software identification information for the selected software in

association with the device identification information for the electronic device.

9.   (original)   The software providing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein when the changing request has been received from the electronic device, the device identification information for the electronic device stored in the storage means is replaced with the device identification information for the another electronic device.

10.   (original)   The software providing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the receiving means receives the user identification information identifying the user of the electronic device and the device identification information for the electronic device together with the software identification information for the selected software, and the software sending means carries out authentication based on the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device before sending the selected software to the electronic device.

11.   (original)   The software providing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the changing means receives the user identification information identifying the user of the electronic device and the device identification information for the electronic device together with the changing request, and carries out authentication based on the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device before executing the changing operation.

12.   (original)   The software providing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the software providing means sends the selected software to the another electronic device when the changing operation has been executed.

13.   (currently amended)   A method for providing software via a network to electronic devices, each of the

electronic devices being identified by device identification information, the method comprising:

storing device identification information for an electronic device and user identification information identifying a user of the electronic device in association with each other in a storage unit;

receiving software identification information for selected software from the electronic device;

sending the selected software identified by the software identification information to the electronic device;

issuing a license that allows the electronic device to run the selected software; and

receiving a changing request and executing a changing operation so that another electronic device will be allowed to run the selected software using the license,

in which the user associated with the electronic device is the same as that of the another electronic device.

14.   (original)   The software providing method according to Claim 13, wherein when the software identification information for the selected software has been received from the electronic device, the software identification information for the selected software is stored in the storage unit in association with the device identification information for the electronic device.

15.   (original)   The software providing method according to Claim 13, wherein the device identification information for the electronic device stored in the storage unit is replaced with the device identification information for the another electronic device when the changing request has been received from the electronic device.

16.   (original)   The software providing method according to Claim 13, wherein the user identification information identifying the user of the electronic device and the device identification information for the electronic device

are received together with the software identification information for the selected software, and authentication is carried out based on the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device before sending the selected software to the electronic device.

17.   (original)   The software providing method according to Claim 13, wherein the user identification information identifying the user of the electronic device and the device identification information for the electronic device are received together with the changing request, and authentication is carried out based on the user identification information and the device identification information for the electronic device before executing the changing operation.

18.   (original)   The software providing method according to Claim 13, wherein the selected software is sent to the another electronic device when the changing operation has been executed.